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**Justice and Consumer Affairs**

# Upcoming meeting of federal, provincial and territorial justice ministers (07/11/13)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - Balancing a get tough approach to crime with access to justice and funding for legal aid are issues of concern for Justice and Consumer Affair Minister T. J. Burke.

He will discuss the issues at the federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) meeting of justice ministers, taking place Nov. 14-16 in Winnipeg, MB.

"The federal government has an ambitious get tough on crime agenda and I can support that," Burke said. "However, in a fair and accessible justice system, legal aid is an issue that must also be a key part of discussions."

Burke will also be calling for the federal government to begin contributing to domestic legal aid.

The minister will not be alone in his concerns. At a forum held in September in Moncton, Burke, along with Public Safety Minister John Foran, met with his counterparts from the Atlantic provinces to discuss and prioritize the position of Atlantic justice and public safety ministers in preparation for the FPT meetings. Legal aid was the top concern.

Other issues on the FPT agenda include cyber crime; organized crime; dangerous offenders; aboriginal justice strategy; and youth rehabilitation/custody.

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